Written by Marco Attard
23 June 2017

The Cloud Foundry Summit hosts a surprise announcement-- Microsoft is a Gold Member of the Cloud Foundry Foundation, the group taking care of the open-source platform-as-a-service (PaaS) originally developed by VMware.

The foundation already counts a number of big names, including Cisco, Dell EMC, IBM, SUSE and SAP, whose Platinum membership puts them on a tier above Microsfot. In the Gold ranks are the likes of SAS, GE Digital, Huawei, Capgemini and Google. The search giant in fact joined Cloud Foundry last year in a bid to make its cloud platform more open.

“Microsoft and the Cloud Foundry community are deeply aligned around our mutual understanding of enterprise business and technical requirements, and our commitment to help organizations modernize their applications without vendor lock-in," Microsoft says. "By joining the Cloud Foundry Foundation, we will be able to work with members to contribute to Foundation initiatives and bring a wider range of solutions to Microsoft Azure for our customers and the community.”

The idea behind Cloud Foundry is the creation of a container-based architecture able to run apps in any language on any cloud-- be it Azure, Google Cloud Platform (GCP), Amazon Web Services (AWS), OpenStack, VMware vSphere, SoftLayer and more. Microsoft has been putting more effort into openness, increasing its engagement in open source projects such as the Linux Foundation and GitHub. It also released .NET Core in open source, and is extending Cloud Foundry integration with Azure.

In other Azure-related news, Microsoft announces a four-fold increase in the maximum disk size customers can use in Azure IaaS VMs-- users can use disks with up to 4TB of storage in the

Azure Premium and Standard storage tiers, up from 1TB. Customers with memory-optimised GS5 VMs can provision up to 256TB on the cloud.

Meanwhile smaller companies with more modest needs get smaller Premium Managed Disk sizes of 32 and 64GB, allowing one to optimise cost in scenarios demanding consistent disk performance with lower capacity.

The larger disk sizes are available now in nearly all Azure data regions, with "sovreign clouds" (such as Germany) to get the increase in the coming weeks.

Go Cloud Foundry Foundation Announces Microsoft Joins as Gold Member